

Update



What Is SPRA? An Overview . . .

Southwestern Power Resources Association (SPRA) has provided over 40 years of tireless service in its role as a trade association to its 34 member organizations. It was formed in 1957 as a voluntary group of consumer-owned electrical systems. Those systems receive Federal power and energy from Southwestern Power Administration (Southwestern), which markets hydroelectric power generated at 24 multi-purpose US Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) water projects in Arkansas, Missouri, Oklahoma and Texas, to customers in those states and Kansas and Louisiana.

SPRA acts as a liaison between the Federal power customers and Southwestern, facilitating the flow of information and helping forge strong bonds of mutual respect. SPRA also provides an effective bridge for public power on Federal power issues between Southwestern's cooperative and municipal customers. SPRA is an effective customer lobbyist with the Federal Congressional delegations concerning protection of the hydropower resource and communication of grassroots concerns for the electric industry.

SPRA activities have benefited millions of rural and small town electric consumers in the Southwestern six-state marketing area, while providing solid support for repayment of the federal investment in the water projects and specific power facilities in a consistent and timely manner. Grassroots support by its membership has assured the continued flow of Federal power to Southwestern's marketing area customers.

Recent SPRA activities include:

- National Recreation Lakes Study - Provided comments concerning protection of hydropower resource because of competing water uses such as recreation. Attended Commission meetings and made comments during the public comment period in support of Federal hydropower.
- Water Supply Storage Reallocation Issues - Provided comments to the Corps concerning negative effects on Federal hydropower from storage reallocation.



Over 40 years of tireless service to its 34 member organizations.

- SPRA Congressional tour - Organized and hosted an Oklahoma Federal Congressional tour to explain current issues and benefits of hydropower to the delegation.
- Southwest Power Pool (SPP) Activities - Attended SPP meetings concerning regional transmission tariffs and the development of a SPP Regional Transmission Organization or Independent System Operator concept. Provided support to the SPRA systems during the process.

- Southwestern Hydropower Conference - Helped in the development, organization, and implementation of three successful hydropower conferences among the Corps, Southwestern, and Federal power customers. The purposes of the conferences are better communications, doing things smarter, and providing a more reliable hydropower product.

Executive Director Ted Coombes and Director of Member Relations Barbara DelGrosso are seasoned travelers, visiting 11 states and the District of Columbia in 1998 alone.

The complexity and variety of the numerous and challenging issues they must confront during those travels require them both to be creative, resourceful, and quick studies. They repeatedly return to correspondence, e-mail, voice mail, and faxes accumulated during their absence. It's amazing what a two-person office can accomplish!

Southwestern salutes SPRA's role as a customer advocate in the water, energy and environmental issues that impact the generation and delivery of Federal power. 📌

Southwestern Update

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The UPDATE is published quarterly by and for customers, retirees, employees and contract employees of Southwestern Power Administration like:



New Employee
Joe Hopkins,
Electronics Technician
Springfield

Special thanks to:

Joe Durham
Jerry Ferguson
Jake Gage
George Grisaffe
Perry Henson
Danny Johnson
Jim McDonald
Gene Reeves
DeAnn Rhea
Paul Richard
Sharren Ripley
Linda Saults
Barbara Smith

Current pinion

Reflections

It's hard to imagine that this is my 20th year with Southwestern. The changes I have seen and experienced over those two decades have been extensive, both in the agency and in myself.

Possibly the greatest changes in the workplace have been those brought about by the computer.

At Southwestern we've changed the way we purchase services and property, using credit cards and the computer to increase our dollar limits for major contract procurements. Our newly-installed Oracle financial management system is a product of the computer age; it literally did not exist 20 years ago.

The way the Federal government does business has impacted the real property business too, where my personal interest lies. When Southwestern moved into the Williams Center nine years ago, we realized just how much we were paying for a lease and began working on new ways to meet that need. This resulted in our doing our own leasing at a substantial savings – a definite change for the better!

In addition there has been sweeping change in the communication and electric industry brought about by the use of fiber optics.

These are just a few of the changes and challenges we as an agency have faced and successfully met in the last 20 years.



by Linda Saults-Mummey

I've done a lot of changing over these past two decades as well. First, four years' experience in the front office, then a little time at the Corps of Engineers Real Property Office, and even a month in the Power Marketing Liaison Office a few years ago. A career which has taken me from clerical to quasi-professional to professional.

Leadership opportunities have abounded over the years such as Combined Federal Campaign leadership, meeting facilitation, special training, and just good old family support - from my Southwestern family.

As we move into the 21st century there will be more opportunities to change and improve. I for one am looking forward to a great new millennium!

Linda Saults-Mummey
Realty Officer



Jake Gage, Jerry Ferguson and Perry Henson review fiber-optics planning strategy.

Historic First

Fiber Agreement with KAMO
by Perry Henson

Southwestern and KAMO Power recently entered into a partnership agreement to share optical fiber between Neosho, Springfield and Branson, Missouri. This agreement will provide enhanced operational capabilities and significant cost savings to both parties.

It is a strategic goal of Southwestern to find and develop opportunities to partner with customers to achieve mutually beneficial objectives of better customer service, new sources of revenue, and lower operating costs. The KAMO agreement is an historic first in this endeavor.

Customers interested in exploring partnering opportunities with Southwestern or KAMO may contact:

Perry Henson (Southwestern)
918-595-6614 or,
Tim McCracken (KAMO)
918-256-5551, x2230. 📍

Five-Star Rating

by Sharon King & Sharren Ripley

"Customers hold Southwestern accountable for human resources as well as financial resources" and "Southwestern earns five stars out of a possible five stars," said Jodi Guss, leader of the five-member team from the Dallas Oversight Division, Office of Personnel Management.

The team conducted a review of Southwestern's Division of Human Resources Management during the week of February 8. They reviewed employee morale, performance appraisal system, training, awards program, and overall division accountability.

What were some of the reasons for the five-star rating?

- More positive employee attitudes than those expressed in government-wide and DOE Merit System Protection Board questionnaires.
- Excellent performance appraisal system.
- Agency-wide involvement in design and development of:
- Strategic Plan Organization 2000+ Appraisal system Awards Programs Work and family programs

- Training:
With tighter budgets, annual training plan focuses on critical priorities.
 - Mandatory monthly employee training sessions on Southwestern's business.
- Individual development plans updated regularly.
- Organization 2000+ plan serves as morale booster, pivotal in preventing reductions in force, and ensures maximum manpower efficiency.

Operating with two-thirds of their 1996 workforce, the Division remains dedicated to quick and responsive customer service. The level of their commitment to and concern for their work to achieve Southwestern goals is commendable. 📍



STAR POWER: Rutha Williams, Lynn King, Mariella Rose, Janet Hagar, (seated) Cheryl Crosswell, Colin Kelley

Electrifying the Millennium

by Sharon King

With the theme "Electrifying the Millennium," the 42nd annual meeting of the Southwestern Power Resources Association (SPRA) took place April 7 and 8, 1999 at the Downtown DoubleTree Hotel. The first day's events included meetings of the

Executive Committee, Federal Power Marketing Committee and Competing Uses Subcommittee.

Southwestern Power Administration's (Southwestern) Y2K presentation, followed by the Red Cross program on preparedness, wrapped up the day's business. The always-lively dinner and reception that evening included a "come as your favorite Y2K bug" contest" and a game entitled "Get the Picture," both of which were hosted in style by master of ceremonies "Firefly" Jim Sherwood.

Thursday morning brought

the traditional customer breakfast hosted by Southwestern. Y2K bugs were in evidence everywhere, from plates and napkins to simulated computer disasters as centerpieces.

Following the morning meeting of the SPRA Board of Directors, the annual meeting was underway. Executive Director Ted Coombes introduced the first speaker, Southwestern Administrator Michael Deihl, who gave an overview of the agency's



activities and challenges during 1998.

Keynote speaker Dr. Joseph Westphal, Assistant Secretary of the Army, Civil Works, followed Deihl and assured his listeners that he would be focusing on increasing his knowledge of hydropower and its importance to America. Coombes then concluded the business meeting with his annual report to members on the state of SPRA.

A proclamation of appreciation was read and presented to Richard Hester, who retired in 1998 from City Utilities of Springfield after many years of service. Don Shaw, who is leaving the SPRA Board of Directors, was recognized as well. 🐛



Dr. Joseph Westphal



Rates Team - Tracey Hannon, Jim Sherwood, and Stephanie Bradley

Educating Southwestern

by Sharon King

The sixth agency-wide session in the FY 99 Educating Southwestern training schedule took place on March 1, 1999. The topic was an overview of the Y2K situation as it applies to Southwestern and what the agency is doing to prepare for it.

After an introduction by Assistant Administrator George Grisaffe, Lead Computer Specialist Paul Richard gave an explanation of the necessity for Southwestern to ensure that its two mission-critical systems, the Oracle financial system and the SCADA/EMS system, are ready for Y2K. Electrical Engineer Joe Durham explained that there are two Southwestern groups addressing Y2K issues: the Y2K Committee, consisting of 9 employees, which responds to external requests; and the Y2K Business Continuity and Contingency Planning Committee, including 12 employees, which is tasked with addressing Y2K emergency preparedness and preparing a Y2K continuity and contingency plan for submission to DOE Headquarters and to NERC.

Electronics Engineer Danny Johnson then spoke of the possible Y2K impacts on the electric transmission system and how Southwestern is readying for them. Jim Sherwood, Division Director, Rates and Repayment, continued the presentation on possible Y2K impacts as they may affect Southwestern and its employees.

The final speaker was Bob Roberts of the American Red Cross, who stressed to the attendees that it is best to be prepared for any emergencies and pointed out that the only difference between any potential Y2K emergency and all others is that Y2K is actually "scheduled." He advised everyone to discuss emergency plan details with family members; to have a central point of contact telephone number, preferably outside the local area code, which all family members may utilize, and to have a kit easily accessible at home in case of any emergency.

Contents should include a flashlight with good batteries, battery-operated radio, and enough canned food and bottled water for two or three days. He also recommended including the emergency telephone number of the family's homeowner's insurance agent in the kit. Bottom line: Be Prepared!

On April 5, 1999 the seventh monthly session was held. Ted Coombes, Executive Director of the Southwestern Power Resources Association (SPRA) gave an informative presentation on SPRA's history and its role as it relates to Southwestern. He explained that SPRA is a trade association of 34 member municipalities and electric cooperatives which purchase hydropower from Southwestern in its six-state marketing area.

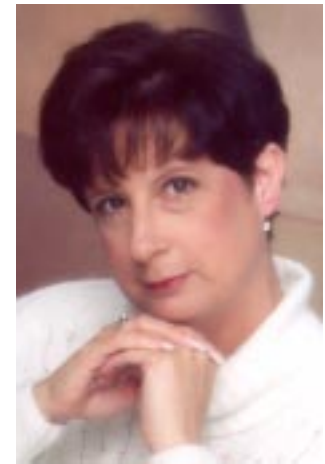
Ted related that SPRA has four major roles, which are: acting as customer liaison with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; interacting with Southwestern, both in Tulsa and the field offices; lobbying Congress, and acting as liaison with two national trade associations: the American Public Power Association and the National Rural Electric Cooperatives Association.

SPRA headquarters moved to Tulsa from Edmond in 1995 because the Board of Directors wanted SPRA to have a "daily working relationship with Southwestern." Ted and Membership Director Barbara DelGrosso can be seen frequently in the offices of Southwestern, dealing with issues such as rates, operations, funding and customer service.

Ted provided an excellent overview of SPRA's role in the electric power industry and exhibited his impressive knowledge of electrical issues as they relate to Southwestern. It was obvious from the rapt attention of his audience that Ted had them in the palm of his hand. 📌



George Grisaffe



Barbara DelGrosso



Ted Coombes

On Track with Y2K

by Joe Durham

On March 31, Southwestern hosted a Y2K Contingency Planning Seminar at the Southwestern Springfield, Missouri Operations Center. Seminar participants represented Southwestern, the Tulsa and Little Rock Districts of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), Associated Electric Cooperative Inc., and the City of Paragould, Arkansas.

The objectives for the seminar were to . . .

- Familiarize participants with the Y2K contingency planning process
- Share progress on Y2K contingency planning activities
- Communicate milestones for Y2K contingency planning and exercises
- Begin planning for year-end activities
- Tentatively identify roles and responsibilities for Y2K contingency planning and action teams

The seminar began with a short tabletop exercise led by Planning Engineer David Sargent of Black & Veatch. As simulated problems with Southwestern's power facilities and communications were presented, the group provided a range of possible solutions.

Electronic Engineer Danny Johnson then gave an overview and risk assessment of those communications systems that could play a major role in coping with any Y2K-related emergencies. David Sargent followed with a presentation of one possible power system restoration process which would restore the Southwestern/Corps interconnected power facilities with three electrical power system islands.

Joe Durham concluded the morning session with an overview of Southwestern's draft "Y2K Contingency Plan." It is similar to the Western Area Power Administration plan and North American Electric Reliability Council (NERC) guidelines.

The informal afternoon session featured discussions on future needs and coordination of Y2K contingency planning efforts. Participants also shared their plans for staffing facilities during the year-end date changeover period.

Schedule of Y2K Activities:

In order to continue to improve its readiness for Y2K and other potential events, Southwestern plans additional seminars and/or training exercises during 1999. For further information about participation, please contact Southwestern's Y2K exercise coordinator, Jerry Martin, at (918) 595-6694, or jmartin@swpa.gov. A proposed schedule for these events follows:

May 25 - U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Y2K Contingency Planning team visits Southwestern's headquarters facility.

May 27/28 - DOE Y2K Contingency Planning Workshop in Dallas, Texas.

June 30 - Complete NERC-required power system contingency plan.

August 30 - Complete final versions of Business Continuity and Contingency Plans.

September 8/9 - Participate in NERC drill of power system readiness.

December 30/January 3 - VIGIL BEGINS! Maintain alert status for possible Y2K problems. 📞

Washington Liaison

by Barbara Turpen Smith



Since the mid 1980s, Southwestern has been a part of the Power Marketing Liaison Office (PMLO) which provides information and representation for the Power Marketing

Administrations (PMAs). For several years, a staff of five has also represented the Alaska, Southeastern and Western Area Power Administrations. The current staff is:

- Assistant Administrator Tim Meeks heads up the office,
- Liaison Specialist Barbara Smith focuses on issues affecting Southwestern and Southeastern,
- Deputy Assistant Administrator Jack Dodd focuses on Western issues,



Tribute to Annette Hinshaw

by DeAnn Rhea

- Liaison Assistant Michelle Livingston coordinates issues pertaining to the four PMAs,
- and Carleen Tate-Little serves as Secretary.

The Liaison staff are considered the PMAs' "eyes and ears in Washington," not only in the political arena but with other Federal agencies.

To assure they remain current on issues and policies, Liaison staff periodically attend PMA meetings (including the Southwestern Power Resources Association Annual Meeting). This enhances their ability to identify and act on significant issues.

Less PMA travel is required because of the PMLO representation in DC. Much time is dedicated to cultivating strong working relationships in the area to ease communications between the PMAs and Federal and Congressional staff.

When you have opportunity, please stop in and say hello. The Liaison office is located in room 8G-027 at Department of Energy Headquarters, (202) 586-5581. 📍

Annette Hinshaw, a highly regarded and respected member of the Southwestern team for over 15 years, passed away on February 22, 1999. Annette started at Southwestern as a temporary clerk-typist in October of 1983 and steadily climbed the professional ladder, capping her career as a Public Utilities Specialist in the Division of Customer Service.

Her extensive agency knowledge and outstanding customer service were prized and will be greatly missed. The following is a tribute to Annette from co-worker DeAnn Rhea:

Remembering Annette: A Personal Note

My career at Southwestern began about five years ago in Customer Service. Sitting in side-by-side cubicles, Annette and I hit it off from the beginning. The willing teacher taught the willing student. If she didn't know the answer to a question, she knew where to find it. Annette gave true meaning to the word "Mentor."

We both desired perfection in our work, and when she turned over a project that she had performed over the years, I felt privileged to be trusted to see it to completion. She never failed to provide praise to me and others for our efforts.

I became familiar with her on a personal as well as professional level. Here are some memories I will cherish . . .

One of Annette's sisters and family live on a farm in the western part of Kansas. Since they don't have cable TV, their reception is poor at best. Annette regularly sent them boxes of shows and movies she had videotaped.

A couple of weeks before her death, and in her pain and diminished strength, she called to ask if I would be interested in a very pretty dress she had. Of course, I was honored.

Our passion was/is writing, and Annette had recently been retained to have one of her manuscripts published. She encouraged me to continue my literary and artistic interests.

There isn't anyone who is irreplaceable, but Annette Hinshaw comes mighty close. Moments before she slipped into a coma and then passed away, her husband said she had joked with him. Annette was special, and her absence is felt daily. 📍

news in brief



Federal Executive Association

by Sharon King

Sharon Keasler, Office Director and Field Representative for the Tulsa office of United States Senator Don Nickles (R-OK), addressed the February meeting of the Tulsa Federal Executive Association (FEA). In her remarks she summarized the four major topics to be targeted by Senator Nickles in the current Senate session: Social Security, tax issues, defense and education.

She stressed that the energy industry is an issue at the forefront as well.

Keasler noted that the domestic oil industry is a subject of much concern, as America's dependence on foreign oil sources grows.

Southwestern Administrator Mike Deihl currently serves as Vice Chair of the Tulsa FEA, which meets bi-monthly to hear speakers on topics of interest to local Federal agencies. 📍



Update

Best of the Best

by Sharren Ripley

Once each year, Federal agencies are authorized to solicit employees in the Federal workplace for contributions to charitable organizations. This effort is known as the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC).

On March 11 at the Tulsa Area United Way Annual Meeting, Gene Reeves, Assistant Administrator of Corporate Operations, Southwestern's representative, was presented with the "Best of the Best" award on behalf of the agency.

Southwestern was the only one of 72 local Federal agencies recognized with this award along with 23 non-federal organizations. Criteria included achieving a minimum per capita of \$200 with 75% or more of the employees participating in the campaign. Administrator Deihl also served as the 1998 Chairman of the eight county Greater Tulsa Area CFC. (The Tulsa Area United Way is the organization which manages the overall campaign.) Southwestern has been the highest per capita giver among local Federal agencies for the last 10 years.



Gene Reeves receives "Best of the Best" award from Pete Churchwell, PSO President and United Way Campaign Chair.

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